

NCA
VQC FOR IOP/FN
BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5757
JULIAN K. GORSKI

APRIL 25, 1978

U.S.S.R. AND EUROCOMMUNISM

ANNCR:

THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER PRAVDA HAS INDIRECTLY DENOUNCED EUROCOMMUNISM AS A POLITICAL WEAPON DESIGNED TO DESTROY THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. WITH A BACKGROUNDER REPORT HERE IS VOA'S JULIAN GORSKI:

VOICE:

IT WAS NOT JUST WHAT PRAVDA SAID BUT HOW IT SAID IT THAT ADDS SIGNIFICANCE TO THE ATTACK. THE ATTACK ON EUROCOMMUNISM CAME IN THE FORM OF A REPRINT OF AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY IDEALOGUE JAN FOJTIK. NO EUROCOMMUNIST PARTY IS MENTIONED BY NAME IN THE ARTICLE, HOWEVER, ITS PUBLICATION COINCIDED WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY IN 40 YEARS. ALSO THE ARTICLE APPEARED 10 YEARS AFTER THE "PRAGUE SPRING" -- THE BRIEF PERIOD DURING WHICH ALEXANDER DUBCEK ATTEMPTED TO HUMANIZE COMMUNISM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ONLY TO SEE HIS COUNTRY INVADED BY SOVIET-LED EAST EUROPEAN TROOPS.

WESTERN OBSERVERS REGARD THE PRAVDA ARTICLE AS A SIGN OF SOVIET CONCERN LEST WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST IDEAS SHOULD PERMEATE INTO EASTERN EUROPE IN GENERAL AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN PARTICULAR.

THE ARTICLE CHARGES THAT EUROCOMMUNISTS STRIVE TO "SLANDER" AND "WEAKEN" THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES. AND, IN A REFERENCE TO THE DUBCEK ERA, IT NOTES THAT THE AIMS OF EUROCOMMUNISM ARE "REFLECTED IN THE EMERGENCE OF THE THEORY OF 'NATIONAL COMMUNISM' DURING THE NINETEEN-FIFTIES AND 'SIXTIES AND LATER IN THE THEORY OF 'SPECIFIC MODELS OF

SOCIALISM' WHICH THE CZECHOSLOVAK REVISIONISTS PROPOUNDED."

THE ARTICLE'S FAILURE TO MENTION THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY IS SEEN BY OBSERVERS AS REFLECTING MOSCOW'S DESIRE TO AVOID ANTAGONIZING THOSE COMMUNIST IN SPAIN WHO STILL SUPPORT SOVIET THINKING. THIS ALSO TENDS TO EXPLAIN WHY A FOREIGN COMMUNIST -- IN THIS CASE THE CZECHOSLOVAK FOJTIK -- AUTHORED THE CRITICISM.

WESTERN OBSERVERS RECALL THAT A YEAR OR SO AGO PRAVDA DENOUNCED SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER SANTIAGO CARRILLO FOR HIS CRITICISM OF SOVIET ABUSES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. MR. CARRILLO MADE HIS VIEWS KNOWN IN HIS BOOK ENTITLED "EUROCOMMUNISM AND THE STATE." THE BOOK WAS RECEIVED WITH APPROVAL BY THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF FRANCE, ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA. AND CRITICISM OF THE BOOK BY MOSCOW BROUGHT THOSE PARTIES CLOSER TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF MR. CARRILLO. THIS IS THE KIND OF SITUATION, WESTERN OBSERVERS SUGGEST, THAT SOVIET LEADERS ARE NOW TRYING TO AVOID.

JS/PY